

## **REMARKS**

Pursuant to an Election/Restriction requirement dated January 16, 2008, Applicants elect, without traverse, Claims 1-15 (Group I) for substantive examination in the present application, and Claims 16-32 (Groups II through V) are hereby withdrawn from consideration. Applicant further elects the Species shown in Figure 1 without traverse, and states that Claims 1-6 and 9-15 are readable on the elected Species.

Applicants have carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present Response is intended to be fully responsive and is believed to place the application in better condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

### **Election/Restriction Requirements**

The Examiner has issued an election requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372 asserting that the application is directed towards five (5) distinct inventions. Specifically, Examiner claims that the following claims groupings represent distinct and separate inventions:

Group I, claim(s) 1-15, drawn to a housing member for elongate objects;

Group II, claim(s) 16-17, drawn to a method of molding a tubular member;

Group III, claim(s) 18-23, drawn to a device to connect two tubular structures together;

Group IV, claim(s) 24-27, drawn to a rack system for supporting a tubular object; and

Group V, claim(s) 28-32, drawn to a connector to connect a tubular object to a rack.

The Examiner has further issued an election requirement pursuant to PCT Rule 13.1 asserting that the application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention, specifically the species of figures 1, 11, 17, 29, 41, 44, 45, and 51.

In response, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to proceed with the prosecution of Group I, Claims 1-15, in the pending application. Groups II through V, Claims 16-32, have been withdrawn without prejudice, pending the examination of Group I. Further, Applicants hereby elect the species of Figure 1 and state that Claims 1-6 and 9-15 are readable on the elected Species.

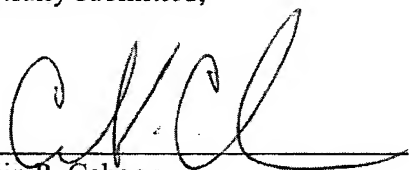
### CONCLUSION

An Office Action on the merits is now respectfully awaited. If there are any outstanding issues that the Examiner feels may be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Colin P. Cahoon at 972.367.2001.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any payments that may be due or credit any overpayment to CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP Deposit Account 50-0392.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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